

REMARKS

The Examiner is thanked for the thorough examination of the above-referenced application, and the indication that claims 4, 5, 9, 10, 14, 15, 19, and 20 contain allowable subject matter.

In this Amendment, Applicant has editorially amended claims 2-4, 7-9, 12-15, and 17-20, and cancelled claims 1, 6, 11, and 16. Claims 4, 8, 14 and 19 are the independent claims of this application. After entry of these amendments, claims 2-5, 7-10, 12-15, and 17-20 remain pending in the application. For at least the following reasons, it is submitted that this application is in condition for allowance.

Applicant notes with appreciation that the Examiner has indicated that claims 4, 5, 9, 10, 14, 15, 19, and 20 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Relying on this assurance, Applicant has amended claims 4, 9, 14 and 19 into independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claims from which they directly depend. It is therefore respectfully submitted that the independent claims 4, 9, 14, and 19 are now in condition for allowance. In addition, claims 2-3 and 5, claims 7-8 and 10, claims 12-13 and 15, and claims 17-18 and 20 are allowable since they respectively depend from claims 4, 9, 14 and 19, as well as for the additional features recited therein.

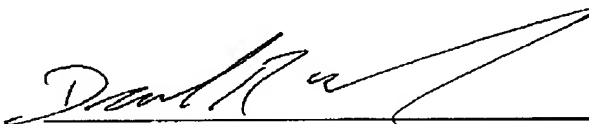
Based on the amendments made herein, the rejections set forth in the Office Action are moot, and Applicant respectfully submits that this application is in condition for allowance and such a notice, with allowed claims 2-5, 7-10, 12-15 and 17-20, earnestly is solicited.

If the Examiner believes that a conference would be of value in expediting the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is hereby invited to telephone the undersigned counsel to arrange for such a conference.

No fee is believed to be due in connection with this amendment and response to Office Action. If, however, any fee is believed to be due, you are hereby authorized to charge any such fee to deposit account No. 20-0778.

Respectfully submitted,

By:



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